

# **NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Block Island School**

**August 21, 2006**

**7:00 P.M.**

**The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, August 21, 2006, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, William Padien, and Richard Tretheway. Jack Lyle was also present.**

## **Approval of Minutes**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to approve the minutes of the meetings held on July 10, 17, 24, and August 9, 2006, carried with a vote of 5-0.**

## **Reports**

**Annie Hall reported that the Early Learning Center raised approximately \$9,500 on the Toy Boat Race.**

**Shea Butcher reported that the traffic safety committee met and decided that additional signs would be needed around the property. Vehicles should not be left unattended in the front circle. If leaving a vehicle for any reason, you should not park along the circle, but seek a parking spot in the lot or on the street. The committee would like to**

**install a locking chain at the “driveway” to the oil tank to keep cars and trucks from entering the playground area. The oil company and the fire department would have keys to access the property.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to amend the agenda to address Item 5A New Shoreham Police Department Youth Resource Officer next carried with a vote of 5-0.**

### **New Business**

**Chief of Police Vin Carlone stated that the Block Island School provides a very safe environment for our students and, unless he is missing something, there are no problems. However, he explained that he would like to implement a youth service officer program and, if the school is interested, would have one of his officers trained to work with the students on a variety of things, but mostly prevention. This officer could partner with the teachers on discussions about drugs, alcohol, etc. Mrs. Lacoste stated that the more voices telling the children about not using drugs or alcohol the better it would be. Chief Carlone stated that there would probably be a minimal cost for this training, but it was suggested that perhaps BICEP, BISF, Lions Club, etc. would make donations. The committee assured the chief that they were very interested in this program and he should go ahead with the training.**

**William Padien reported that the acoustic panels are to be installed tomorrow in the new music room. The curtains for the windows have**

been ordered. Once they have been received and installed the music room will be done. No money has been budgeted for cabinetry and/or instrument storage, but perhaps this can be addressed next year.

Mr. Padien reported that once the shop equipment has been moved to the new tech ed room, a quote will be solicited for the required duct work. The dust collector is supposed to be shipped at the end of August. An electrical quote will also be needed to finish up the installation of the duct work.

Items on the punch list still have not been completed. Everett Littlefield sent a letter to H.V. Collins Company regarding his concerns about the air conditioning and heating units in the offices and not getting any help in alleviating the problems. Marc Tillson will perform a preliminary walk-through to see what needs to be done before school opens.

Mr. Padien reported that an anonymous donation of \$2500 has been received for the outside basketball stanchions. The backboards from the old gym will be used outside. Also, Mr. Padien thanked Shea Butcher and Geoff Hall for installing the high school lockers.

A motion (Padien, Hall) to recommend to the Town Council to pay Saccoccio & Associates' Invoice #25 in the amount of \$4,885.18 was made. It was amended (Padien, Hall) to include the stipulation that there be further discussions with the Town Manager and Mark Saccoccio before payment is made. Both motions were eventually

**withdrawn. Mr. Padien will discuss the invoice with the Town Manager and other necessary individuals prior to recommending its payment.**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to amend the agenda to address Item 3E Superintendent's Report next carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**Mr. Lyle congratulated Sean McGarry for completing the 15 hours of professional development required to achieve recognition status from Rhode Island Association of School Committees and the Rhode Island Board of Regents.**

**Mr. Lyle submitted more SALT data on parent attitudes towards the school, parent involvement with their children on schooling and homework, parent reports of the school's efforts to involve parents, and parent reports of student progress and attitudes. He stated that he came to two conclusions after reading this data: 1) parents feel good about the school and are positive and supportive of the work students are engaged in and 2) parents want to be more involved in the life of the school.**

**Mr. Lyle thanked the committee for all of its work and requested that Marsha Gutierrez be designated to fill in for him as required for the rest of the meeting. A motion (Padien, Butcher) to have Marsha Gutierrez fill in for the superintendent for the remainder of the meeting carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**John Warfel reported for the technology committee and reiterated the points made in an email to Mr. Lyle from Gene Warfel regarding the support of technology requiring more time than Block Island School has allowed or allocated in its current budget. It was suggested that a part-time technology coordinator be hired to provide day-to-day network and computer support. This position could have part-time teaching responsibility. A non-teaching computer/network support person should also be hired. This person would not have to be a certified teacher, but be familiar with the network/ computers used at the school. It was also suggested that a computer support company be hired to manage the more technical aspects of the network. Mr. Warfel reported that the technology committee has started breaking down the job descriptions that would be required for the above positions. In addition, the school should adopt a five-year acquisition and replacement plan for computer hardware, network hardware, and printers.**

**Marlee Lacoste reported on the following:**

- Summer services will conclude on Friday, August 25.**
- Camp Mohegan worked very well this summer and there seemed to be very few problems with the use of our facilities.**
- The maintenance team is working on getting the floors waxed and polished. Mr. LusterKlean will clean the carpet in the upstairs hallway.**
- We will be starting the new school year with approximately 150**

students. Twelve students are enrolled in the kindergarten class, eight new students have enrolled in various grades, and two students have moved off island. The back to school letter with several enclosures will be mailed home by Wednesday and include information about the use of the driveway.

## **Old Business**

Correspondence was received from Becky Wright at RIDE informing all RI schools that the statute for closing schools during elections has been modified to include statewide primary days. Our 2006-07 school calendar was adjusted to meet this requirement. Block Island School will not be in session on September 12, which currently makes Monday, June 18, 2007, the 180th day. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the modified school calendar based on state legislation requiring schools to be closed on statewide primary election day carried with a vote of 5-0.

Sean McGarry reported that soccer practice will begin on September 6 and students must have physicals completed prior to the first practice. A game has been scheduled for Saturday, September 9 with Williams School. Games with Rocky Hill and Branford have also been scheduled. Mr. McGarry anticipates having a full soccer schedule prior to the start of school. It was suggested that he check with Mrs. Lacoste before the schedules are finalized to avoid conflicts with any educational programs. Mr. Padien also thanked Lynne Cunningham for the great job she has done over the years working on the athletic

**programs.**

**The recently updated athletic director job description was submitted for committee review. It was reported that the AD position is currently being advertised in the Block Island Times. Committee members feel that we are depending too much on volunteers and all stipends should be increased.**

### **New Business**

**Copies of the 2006-07 elementary, middle, and secondary bell schedules were submitted for committee review. New this year is a homeroom period at the beginning of the day, however the start and end times are the same as last year. In addition, the times were shifted to create a better flow during the three lunch periods.**

**A motion (Hall, Padien) to accept with regret the resignation of Paul Cunningham as the boys' varsity basketball coach effective immediately carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) to consent to the appointment of Joan Baker as a full-time elementary/ reading teacher carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A letter was received from Town Manger Nancy Dodge requesting that the tentative agreement with the New Shoreham Employees' Association be reviewed and approved by the School Committee. This document has been signed by the representatives of the**

association. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the amendment (“wage re-opener”) to the town employees contract and sign the document as required carried with a vote of 5-0.

Town Manager Nancy Dodge also requested that the School Committee appoint one of its members to attend the negotiation sessions between the town and the employees’ association, which are scheduled to begin in September. Mr. Padien volunteered for this position. A motion (McGarry, Hall) to appoint Bill Padien as the School Committee representative to the town’s negotiation team carried with a vote of 5-0.

An updated Computer Network System Management contract with Eugene Warfel was submitted for School Committee review. Based on the earlier discussion where Mr. Warfel stated he was willing to work with us on a month to month basis because he has moved to Maine, the committee suggested that the terms of agreement be amended to accommodate him. A motion (Padien, Hall) to amend the last page of the contract with Mr. Warfel to read “on a monthly basis beginning September 1, 2006, until the job is advertised and filled carried with a vote of 5-0. A motion (Padien, McGarry) to approve the Computer Network System Management contract as amended carried with a vote of 5-0.

## **Calendar of Events**

**The School Committee’s Annual Back to School Breakfast with the**



**school staff will be held at the 1661 Inn at 7:45 A.M. on Tuesday, September 5. The next regular meeting of the School Committee is scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2006.**

### **Correspondence**

**A request for a medical leave of absence was received from John Tarbox. A motion (Padien, Hall) to approve the request from John Tarbox for a medical leave of absence effective at the beginning of the school year and to advertise for a long-term substitute for this position carried with a vote of 5-0. The committee also requested that best wishes for a quick recovery be sent to Mr. Tarbox.**

### **Executive Session**

**A motion (Padien, Hall) at 8:57 P.M. to go into executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for a discussion on possible litigation carried with a vote of 5-0.**

### **Open Session**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) at 9:12 P.M. to return to open session carried with a vote of 5-0.**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) to seal the minutes of the executive session carried with a vote of 5-0.**

### **Adjournment**

**A motion (Padien, Tretheway) at 9:13 P.M. to adjourn carried with a**

**vote of 5-0.**

**Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk**

**Date approved: 9/19/2006**